THE TRVE REPORT OF THE LAMENTABLE DEATH, OF VVILLIAM of *Nassawe* Prince of *Orange*: who was trayterouslie slayne with a Dagge in his owne Courte, by *Balthazar Serack* a *Burgunian*, the first of *July* 1584.

Heerein is expressed the Murtherers confession, and in what manner he was executed, vpon the tenth of the same month. Whose death was not of sufficient sharpnes for such a caytife, and yet too sowre for any Christian.

P. G.

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BRITISH

G. T. His Probeme to the inhabitaunts of Flaunders.

WHo so considereth the state of Princes (although they are as Gods vpon earth, beeing annoynted of God, hauing theyr authoritye from God, and sitting in Gods seate to rule the sword with the Law, may perceaue that they liue in more care and greater daunger, then the simplest subiect. Lamentable therefore is their late example of the Prince of Orange, slayne (by a treatherous villain) in his owne Courte: his death and the manner thereof, may forewarne other Princes to be carefull, whome they retaine into the presence of their person. Great is thy losse, and greater wil be thy mysery (O Flaunders,) for the want of thy Prince, who did guide thee and governed thy people, with wisedome, loue, policie and continuall care for thy quietnes: he was thy comfort and the stay of thy state in all extremities.

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misse him? the widdowe, the sucking Babe, and the fatherlesse childe shall have cause to bewayle his death. Yea rich and poore, altogether may lament his mishap, and cry woe vpon that man that bereaued him of life, whose noblemesse deserued fame, and whose woorthy acts and enterprises, beeing honourable, are meete to be registred among the most lawdable reportes of learned Historiographers. If the Romaines did bemone the death of Cæsar, the Troyans the losse of Hector and the Lacedemonians the want of Alexander, then hast thou (O Flaunders) more cause to lament the losse of thy good Prince, who with wisedome, force, and great care, (ayded by the power and prouidence of God himselfe) did keepe thy country, from the handes of him that woulde make a Monarchie of Realmes in his owne handes: to the vtter spoile of thee and thine, & to draw other Realmes vnder his subiection. O most accursed wretch that he was, so subiect to the subtilties of Sathan, to worke the vntimelye death of so gracious a Prince, that hee her

to hath defended your liberties, & maintayned your right these many yeeres, to the great glory of God, the aduauncement of your wealth, and the mayntenaunce of true Religion. It were too tedious to set downe in what subiection all the Lowe Countreys of Flaunders, *hath beene many yeeres yoked in by their enemies: the effect whereof is so notorious & apparant to all the world & the same so truely layd open by many, that it is beese needelesse to touche it: as also to handle the great care of this Prince from time to tyme, who continually sought to maintaine your liberties and to defend your Country frō extreame misery: which doubtles hath sharply pinched you: and now hauing lost him who was the principal prop of the Low countryes, it is like to fall out to the vtter ouerthrowe, ruine, and destruction of that poore cominalty e, (a matter most lamentable) except God (the onelie defender of those that truste in him) doo speedely procure and stirre vp, a carefull and godly Prince to bee the defendor of that people and Countrey, that thereby*

the

the Townes and villages there about may become populous & thoroughly replenished (nowe greeuously impouerished through ciuill discention) to the quietnes, wealth, and peace of the same.

And considering it is most necessary to publish a true discourse of this late lamentable mishappe, I haue thought it good breefely and plainely to set downe the true circumstaunce thereof: and that for one speciall cause, which is, that considering the vntrue imaginations and fayned reportes, of this Princes death, non blased a broade, as well to his freendes as to hys enemies: the trueth being layd open, and made manifest to all men, that then those reports may be accounted fryuolus and to be troden vnder foote. I therefore admonish you, O yee people of Flaunders, that hauing lost the stay and staffe of your countrey, that you yet vouchsafe with patience to remaine content with GODS workes, who prouideth wonderfully for you. It is your sinnes that is the cause of al your care: wherfore call vpon God in this

your

your time of affliction: and with prayer and hearty repentance, to turne vnto the Lorde, who no doubt will deliuer you from danger: as he did the children of Israell, and assure your selues, that he will so establish your countrey in short time, powring thereon peace and plenty, that the remembraunce of your great extremety now fallen vpon you, shall in short time grow out of memory and be made a florishing common wealth which God the father withall speede graunt to confirme. Amen.

The dyscourse of the Treason wrought against *William* of *Nassawe*, Prince of *Orange*, by *Balthazar Serack*, a base borne Gent. of *Burguni*, of the age of 25. yeeres.

VPon the 12. day of Iune last past 1584. there came to the Prince of *Orange*) a base borne Gent. of *Burguni*, who brought certain Letters from the States of *Fraunce*, conserning matters of newes, touching the

death

death of the Frenche kinges brother, who died a little before: which Letters, the Prince in moſt thankful manner did receiue, and gaue the meſſenger ſuch freendly entertainement in his owne Courte, as became a Prince in ſuch cauſes. The Prince liking well of this meſſenger, would ſundry times vſe conference with him, touching the gariſon of the Prince of *Parma*; whoſe ſouldiers greatly impouériſhed the countries round about. This meſſenger (in whom there remained nothing but ſubtilty and ſecret miſchiefe) dyd ſhow vnto the Prince, howe he coulde at any time bring him or his ſouldiers into the Prince of *Parmaes* gariſon, whereby he might take the aduantage of the Prince of *Parmaes* power, for that this meſſenger beeing a cunning pen man, coulde finely counterfet the Prince of *Parmaes* owne hand, ſo neere that the one ſhould not be knowen frō the other. The Prince notwithſtāding would not ſo deale by his deuiſe, but yet he would enquire of him how al

thinges

things stood, alwel in the Prince of *Parmaes* garison, as of the Princes pretence towards the Low countries, who continually certefied vnto the Prince of *Orang* the truth, which caused the Prince to repose a greater trust and confidence in him, so that he remaind in the court without suspitiō of any trechery. But behold what folowed, on the 1. day of Iuly last past, which by the newe computation of the Romish Churche, was the tenth day of the same moneth, this Traytor thus harbored and lodged in the Courte of this good Prince, seeing a small Pistoll or Dag in the handes of one of the Princes seruaunts, did demaund what it might cost him, saying: I haue occasion to ryde a iourney shortly, and that dagge would be a good defence for me vpon the high way side, wherefore he requested the Princes seruant that he might bye it of him, who thinkīg nothing of that which hapned afterward, did sel it to him for the some of 10. shillings of Englsh mony. The Prince then being in

in his Court at *Delph*, (a town of great strength, where the cheefest States doo inhabite,) who beeing gon to dinner, and the Garde atendant about his person, this Traytor seeing it a meete time to compasse his pretended mischief (which was, to bereaue the Prince of his life, as he did) went into hys Chamber, & charged the Pystol with powder, and put three bullets in the same: that doone he placed it priuelye in his pocket, and went downe to dinner: who after he had dyned, hearing that the Prince would anon goe vp into his priuie chamber, deuised in his minde where he might best plant himselfe, for the finishing of his wicked entent, who finding a priuie corner vpon the stayres, wher he might be shadowed and not be seene, placed himselfe vntyll the Princes comming.

The Prince, so soone as he had dyned, (which was betweene one & two of the clocke in the afternoone) came forth of the great chamber, with hys

Ladye

Lady and Gentlewomen attendaunt, his Lady purposing to walke abroade, tooke her leaue of the Prince, who going towardes the stayres which did leade to the priuie chamber, and seeing an Italian named Ma. *Carinson*, who had stayed to speake with the Prince, to whome the Prince verye freendly spake, saying: *Carinson* welcome, and tooke him by the hand, willing thys Italian that he should goe vp with him into his priuie chamber, purposing there to vse some conference with the Italian Gentleman: and before the Prince entred the stayres, there came an English Captaine, called Captaine *VVilliams*, who dooing reuerence vnto the Prince, was entertained in moste freendly manner, laying his hande vpon Captaine *VVilliams* head, wyllyng him also to come vppe with him.

The Gard then attendant vppon the Prince: Maister *Carinson* and Captayne *VVilliams* followed: But the Prince going vp the stayres, not thinking

ing of any ſuch matter as happened, no ſooner came directly againſt this villenous traytor, but he preſently diſcharged his Piſtoll, (wherein as before mentioned) he hauing put 3. bullets, two of thoſe bullets went through the Princes body, and the third remained in his belie, through which wicked ſtroke, the Prince fell downe ſuddainly, crying out, ſaying: *Lord haue mercy vpon me, and remember thy little flocke.*

VVherewith he changed this life, to the great griefe of his Lady, who greatly lamented his death, as alſo to the great ſorrowe of the whole countrey. The Garde purſued the murtherer and ſought to ſlaye him, but he ouerſcaped the firſt Garde, and was ſtaied by the ſecond watch Garde, which was vvithin the Princes court.

VVhen hee was taken, they demaunded of him what hee had doone, who verye obſtinatly aunſwered, that he had doone that thinge, which hee would willingly doo if it were to doo

againe,

againe. Then they demaunded of him for what cause he did it, hee answered, for the cause of his Prince and country: more confession at that time they could not get of him. Forthwith they committed him to pryson, where he remained aliue to the pleasure of the Estates of the country, who shortly after deuised a torment (by death) for this murderer, which vvas reasonable sharpe, yet not so terrible as he deserued.

Greeuous was the cry of the people that came flocking to the Princes gates, to heare the report and trueth of what had happened, which knowne, euery household was filled with sorrow, who powred forth theyr plaintes, and did shedde teares, for the losse of so good a Christian, and so carefull a Prince.

The murtherer while he remayned in ptison, was sundry times examined by the chiefe Estates of the country, vp

on whose

whole procurement he committed the said fact, who answered: at the Prince of *Parmes* request, and other Princes, at whole hands he shoulde receiue for doing the same 25000. Crownes.

The order of the torment, & death of the murtherer, was as followeth, which was foure dayes. He had the 1. day the Strappado, openly in the Market. The second day whipped and salted, and his right hand cut off. The third day, his breastes cut out and salte throwne in, and then his left hand cut off. The last day of his torment, which was the 10. of Iuly, he was bound to 2. stakes, standing vpright, in such order that he could not stirinke downe nor stirre any way. Thus standing naked, there was a great fire placed some small distaunce from him, wherein was heated pincers of Iron, with which pincers, two men appointed for the same, did pinch and put his flesh in smal peeces from his bones, throughout moste partes of his body. Then was hee vn-

bound

bound from the ſtakes, and layd vppon the earth, and againe faſtened to fowre pottes, namely by his feete and armes: then they ripped vp his belly at which time he had life and perfect memorye, he had his bowels burned before his face, and his bodie cutt in foure ſeueral quarters. During the whole time of his execution, hee remained impenitent and obſtinate, reioycing that he had ſlaine the Prince.

Vpon the 16. day of Iuly, the Prince was very royally buryed, in the newe Church at *Delph*, being lapped in ſeare cloth and Leade, according to the manner of other Princes in time paſt.

The Cittizenes of *Antwerp*, are many times driuen to ſhut vp their gates, by reaſon of theyr enemies, who wold gladly take the Citty at ſome aduauntage: The enemie hath built a Forte vpon the Banke, betweene *Antwarp* and *Lulle*, ſo that they doo what they may to ſtop the paſſage of the Riuer from them.

There

There is not as yet any Gouernour chosen for the Lowe countries: but they are in hope that some order will be taken for them very shortly. God for his mercy sake sende quietnes in those partes, that the people may enioy their owne, to the health, wealth, and comfort of them all now distressed. Amen.

22 JY63